Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 **(Currently Amended)** A contents distribution system comprising a terminal device and a contents distribution apparatus for distributing a content including at least one of video and music data to said terminal device via a network, <u>wherein</u>

~~wherein~~ said contents distribution apparatus comprises:

a content storage section operable to store a content and specific data concerning a predetermined special effect to be applied to<u> a portion of</u> the content and to ~~restrict a reproduced~~<u> impede reproduction of an original</u> substance of <u>the portion of</u> the content, the content and the specific data being stored as a pair;

a content management data setting section operable to set management data, wherein the management data contains a flag indicating whether or not to apply the predetermined special effect to<u> the portion of</u> the content during reproduction, and<u> billing</u> conditions ~~of use~~ which need to be satisfied in order to reproduce<u> the portion of</u> the content without the predetermined special effect; and

a transmission section operable to transmit the content, the specific data, and the management data to the terminal<u> device,</u> ~~device; and~~

~~wherein~~ said terminal device comprises:

a reception section operable to receive the content, the specific data, and the management data from said transmission section; and

a reproduction control section operable<u> to reset the flag when the billing conditions contained in the management data are satisfied and</u> to reproduce the content ~~with or~~ without the predetermined special effect<u> to the portion of the content</u> in accordance with the specific data ~~and the presence or absence of the flag in the management data, and to reset the flag when the conditions of use contained in the management data are satisfied~~.

Claim 2 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:

the specific data is special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ <u>the</u> portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied; and

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when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproduction control section in said terminal device is operable to reproduce the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

Claim 3 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:

the specific data is attribute data consisting of information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied; and

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproduction control section in said terminal device is operable to utilize further data to generate special effects data in accordance with the type and the portion specified by the attribute data, the further data being previously stored in said reproduction control section for realizing special effects, and reproduce the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

Claim 4 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:

said contents distribution apparatus further comprises a content selection section operable to select, as the specific data, either special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied, or attribute data consisting of the information concerning the type and the portion, such that the special effects data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively low processing ability and the attribute data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively high processing ability;

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproduction control section in said terminal device having a relatively low processing ability is operable to reproduce the content by applying the special effects data to the content; and

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproduction control section in said terminal device having a relatively high processing ability is operable to utilize further data to generate special effects data in accordance with the type and the portion specified by the attribute data, the further data being previously stored in said reproduction control section for realizing special effects, and reproduce the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

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Claim 5 **(Previously Presented)** The contents distribution system according to claim 4, wherein said content selection section in said contents distribution apparatus is operable to select the specific data to be appended to the content based on processing ability information which is supplied from said terminal device.

Claim 6 **(Previously Presented)** The contents distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said contents distribution apparatus further comprises a data storage section operable to store the management data.

Claim 7 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said contents distribution apparatus further comprises a distribution content reproduction confirmation section operable to reproduce, for confirmation, the content with or without the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content in accordance with the flag in the management data set by said content management data setting section.

Claim 8 **(Currently Amended)** A contents distribution method for distributing a content including at least one of video and music data from a contents distribution apparatus to a terminal device via a network,

wherein, in the contents distribution apparatus, said method comprises:

storing a content and specific data concerning a predetermined special effect to be applied to a portion of the content and to restrict a reproduced impede reproduction of an original substance of the portion of the content, the content and the specific data being stored as a pair;

setting management data, wherein the management data contains a flag indicating whether or not to apply the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content during reproduction, and billing conditions of use which need to be satisfied in order to reproduce the portion of the content without the predetermined special effect; and

transmitting the content, the specific data, and the management data to the terminal device; and

wherein, in the terminal device, said method comprises:

receiving the content, the specific data, and the management data transmitted from the contents distribution apparatus;

_____ resetting the flag when the billing conditions contained in the management data are satisfied; and

reproducing the content ~~with or~~ without the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content in accordance with the specific data ~~and the presence or absence of the flag in the management data; and~~

~~resetting the flag when the conditions of use contained in the management data are satisfied~~.

Claim 9 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution method according to claim 8, wherein:

the specific data is special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied; and

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproducing of the content, which is performed by the terminal device, reproduces the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

Claim 10 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution method according to claim 8, wherein:

the specific data is attribute data consisting of information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied; and

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproducing of the content, which is performed by the terminal device, utilizes further data to generate special effects data in accordance with the type and the portion specified by the attribute data, the further data being previously stored in the terminal device for realizing special effects, and reproduces the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

Claim 11 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution method according to claim 8, wherein:

in the contents distribution apparatus, said method further comprises selecting, as the specific data, either special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a

type of the predetermined special effect and—a the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied, or attribute data consisting of the information concerning the type and the portion, such that the special effects data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively low processing ability and the attribute data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively high processing ability;

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproducing of the content, which is performed by the terminal device having a relatively low processing ability, reproduces the content by applying the special effects data to the content; and

when the flag indicates that the predetermined special effect must be applied, said reproducing of the content, which is performed by the terminal device having a relatively high processing ability, utilizes further data to generate special effects data in accordance with the type and the portion specified by the attribute data, the further data being previously stored in the terminal device for realizing special effects, and reproduces the content by applying the special effects data to the content.

Claim 12 **(Previously Presented)** The contents distribution method according to claim 11, wherein said selecting of the specific data, which is performed by the contents distribution apparatus, selects the specific data to be appended to the content based on processing ability information which is supplied from the terminal device.

Claim 13 **(Previously Presented)** The contents distribution method according to claim 8, wherein, in the contents distribution apparatus, said method further comprises storing the management data.

Claim 14 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution method according to claim 8, wherein, in the contents distribution apparatus, said method further comprises reproducing, for confirmation, the content with or without the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content in accordance with the flag in the management data set by said setting of the management data.

Claim 15 **(Currently Amended)** A contents distribution apparatus for distributing a content including at least one video and music data to a terminal device via a network, said content distribution apparatus comprising:

a content storage section operable to store a content and specific data concerning a predetermined special effect to be applied to a portion of the content and to ~~restrict a reproduced~~ impede reproduction of an original substance of the portion of the content, the content and the specific data being stored as a pair;

a content management data setting section operable to set management data, wherein the management data contains a flag indicating whether or not to apply the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content during reproduction, and billing conditions ~~of use~~ which need to be satisfied in order to reproduce the portion of the content without the predetermined special effect; and

a transmission section operable to transmit the content, the specific data, and the management data to the terminal device.

Claim 16 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the specific data is special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied.

Claim 17 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the specific data is attribute data consisting of information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied.

Claim 18 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a content selection section operable to select, as the specific data, either special effects data which is generated based on information concerning a type of the predetermined special effect and ~~a~~ the portion of the content to which the predetermined special effect is to be applied, or attribute data consisting of the information concerning the type and the portion, such that the special effects data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively low

processing ability and the attribute data is selected for a terminal device having a relatively high processing ability.

Claim 19 **(Previously Presented)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said content selection section is operable to select the specific data to be appended to the content based on processing ability information which is supplied from the terminal device.

Claim 20 **(Original)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a data storage section operable to store the management data.

Claim 21 **(Currently Amended)** The contents distribution apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a distribution content reproduction confirmation section operable to reproduce, for confirmation, the content with or without the predetermined special effect to the portion of the content in accordance with the flag in the management data set by said content management data setting section.